

# Commissioner's UPDATE

News from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Summer 2005



## A Message from Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

Down the shore, the longer days of summer never seem quite long enough. Salt-air breezes, the refreshing surf and countless recreational opportunities are just some of the reasons millions of people choose this time of year to enjoy New Jersey's treasured Atlantic Ocean coastline.

At the Department of Environmental Protection, we are delivering on our commitment to ensuring the Jersey Shore remains a great experience for generations to come. Under the leadership of Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, we are taking new steps to strengthen protection of New Jersey's water resources and keep our beaches clean and healthy.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can learn more about our efforts to implement key elements of Governor Codey's Coast 2005 initiative, which aims to preserve and enhance the environmental, recreational and economic value of our coastal resources.

The DEP also has kicked off a statewide campaign to educate residents about stormwater pollution, the number-one threat to ocean water quality in New Jersey, and the simple things each of us can do every day to prevent it.

This time of year, our famous coastline becomes one of the nation's most desirable destinations. Our work to protect it continues year round so clean ocean water and safe beaches will be a shore thing in New Jersey every summer.

*Bradley M. Campbell*

## New Jersey scores another victory for clean water

Demonstrating New Jersey's commitment to safeguarding vital water resources from the dangers of burgeoning development, the Department of Environmental Protection has provided the state's highest level of water-quality protection to nearly 22 miles of waterbodies and tributaries of Monmouth County's Shark River Brook watershed.

The Category One (C1) status, based on exceptional water supply significance, prevents any measurable degradation of existing water quality and limits the impact of development and discharges to the streams. New Jersey's comprehensive stormwater-management regulations adopted last year require 300-foot vegetative buffers around high-quality C1 waterways to help filter pollutants.

The C1 upgrade of the Shark River Brook watershed brings to 1,150 the number of river and stream miles to receive the special designation since 2003, along with 7,865 acres of reservoirs that supply clean, fresh water to more than half of New Jersey's families. Shark River supplies water to Glendola Reservoir, a drinking water source previously designated as a C1 waterbody.

The C1 upgrade applies to Shark River Brook, Sarah Green Brook, Robin's Swamp Brook, South Brook, Webly's Brook and Reevey's Branch.



WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST  
FERTILIZING THE LAWN.



## Spreading the word

*Fertilizing the lawn can pollute New Jersey's waterways. That's one of the messages featured in a series of four, full-color posters distributed statewide as part of the DEP's Clean Water NJ campaign. See story on Page 3.*

## Come aboard

*DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell visited a marina in Ocean County to officially launch New Jersey's innovative Clean Marina Program. See story on Page 5.*



## Shining sea

*Keeping New Jersey's marine environment clean and healthy requires constant vigilance.*

## Coast 2005 aims to protect treasured shore resources

**N**ew Jersey's Coast 2005 initiative seeks to strengthen standards and regulations that safeguard the state's fragile coastal ecosystem, enhance public access opportunities, expand protection for coastal wildlife and wildlife habitats and support the state's tourism, seafood and maritime industries.

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey unveiled the comprehensive coastal-protection plan during the third installment of the Summit on the Shore, hosted by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in April. The event brought together members of the tourism industry, business owners and state and local officials to shape the future of the Jersey Shore.

Expanding protection for New Jersey's 127 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline and 83 miles of bayshores will help preserve some of the state's greatest natural treasures and boost the Jersey Shore's appeal as a first-rate tourism destination. The tourism industry contributes \$30 billion to the state economy and generates nearly 416,000 jobs.

Key elements of the Coast 2005 initiative include: restoration of Spring Lake Borough's Wreck Pond, a major source of beach closings, and Deal Lake flume; launch of the New Jersey Clean Marina Program, a partnership between DEP and marina owners, other state agencies, non-profit groups and trade organizations; the creation of three new artificial reefs to enhance fishing and diving opportunities; and funding and technical assistance for the design and construction of a new surf reef project. (See related stories on pages 2, 4 and 5.)

## Restoration of Wreck Pond, Deal Lake flume set to begin

**C**ome September, the DEP will begin on-the-ground work on the next stage of the long-awaited restoration of Spring Lake Borough's Wreck Pond, the cause of most ocean beach closings in New Jersey in recent years. Repair of the Deal Lake flume in Asbury Park also will get under way.

At a public meeting in July, DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell said construction of a 300-foot extension of Wreck Pond's outfall pipe, scheduled to begin this fall, will allow water discharged from the pond to be carried farther offshore and will reduce the amount of pollutants that wash back onto nearby beaches.

The outfall pipe extension is part of a four-point action plan the DEP proposed in May 2004 to address water-quality

problems at Wreck Pond.

This winter, the DEP is set to begin a two-phase dredging of the pond to a depth of five feet to six feet to remove sediment. During the first phase, the DEP will dredge mostly sand that can be used on nearby beach dunes.

Throughout the construction process, the DEP is taking special care to consult with fish and wildlife experts and municipal representatives to minimize impacts on sensitive wildlife and on neighboring properties.

At Deal Lake, the flume will be repaired and extended to the waterline, which will improve water flow between the lake and the ocean and the annual herring migration.



# Posters promote public participation



**T**hinking about washing your car in the driveway this afternoon? Planning to hit the lawn with some fertilizer just before it rains? Forgetting to pick up after your pet?

If you're among the millions of New Jerseyans who would answer yes to any of those questions, the DEP has an important message for you: Seemingly innocuous tasks you do every day are a major cause of pollution in New Jersey's lakes, streams, rivers and the ocean. The good news is, there's plenty you can do to prevent it.

That information is the centerpiece of a statewide public-education campaign to help residents understand the link between their daily activities and water quality in New Jersey and to foster better environmental stewardship.

Pet waste and fertilizers and pesticides from lawns, for example, contain pollutants that wash directly into New Jersey's waterways during rainstorms and snow melts. This contaminated stormwater runoff accounts for nearly 60 percent of the state's current water pollution. It also is the number-one threat to ocean water quality.

The DEP kicked off the first phase of its stormwater-pollution education campaign by mailing thousands of sets of four posters to municipalities, counties, state agencies and other governmental entities, asking recipients to display them in areas frequented by the public.

Featuring the slogan "Clean Water It's Up to You New Jersey," the full-color posters address everyday activities that significantly contribute to stormwater pollution: car washing, lawn fertilizing, dog walking and leaking motor oil.

To complement its Clean Water NJ poster series, the DEP offers more detailed stormwater-pollution information on a special Web site: [www.CleanWaterNJ.org](http://www.CleanWaterNJ.org).

The statewide poster distribution is part of the DEP's commitment to helping municipalities and other governmental entities fulfill a key public-education provision mandated by the federal government and included in New Jersey's stormwater-management regulations, considered the nation's most comprehensive.

Later this year, the Clean Water NJ campaign will expand to include public service announcements on radio and, possibly, television.

To request posters, please call (609) 292-9289.

## Clean water: It's up to you, New Jersey

*Here are some simple things everyone can do to protect the quality of New Jersey's water resources.*

**Litter:** Place litter, such as cigarette butts and fast-food containers, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter in the street or down storm drains. Recycle as much as possible.

**Fertilizers:** Avoid overusing fertilizers, and don't apply them before a heavy rainfall. Fertilizers contain nitrates and phosphates that, in abundance, cause algae blooms that can cause fish kills.

**Motor oil:** Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a local recycling center.

Never dump used motor oil into storm drains or on the ground. Used motor oil contains toxic chemicals that can harm animals, humans and fish.

**Car washing:** Wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles its wash water. If you must wash your car at home, use a non-phosphate detergent and wash it on the grass to minimize runoff.

**Pet waste:** Pick up after pets and dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet. Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that can contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of bathing beaches.

**Pesticides:** Use alternatives to pesticides whenever possible.

Many products that kill pests also are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. If you must use a pesticide, follow label directions carefully.

**Hazardous household products:** Do not discard hazardous products with regular household trash. Products

such as paint thinners, moth balls or drain and oven cleaners contain toxic ingredients that threaten public health and the environment when improperly used or discarded. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible. For more information on household hazardous waste collection in your area, contact your county Solid Waste Management Office or visit: [www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rtrp/hhwcpsh.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rtrp/hhwcpsh.htm).

**Septic systems:** Avoid adding grease, household hazardous products and solids to your septic system. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out every three years to five years depending on its use. An improperly working septic system can contaminate ground water and cause public-health problems.

**Boat discharges:** Use marine sanitation devices and pump-out facilities at marinas. Dumping boat sewage overboard contaminates the water with bacteria and viruses, and is illegal in some areas.





## Tougher action on toxic mercury

Addressing one of New Jersey's largest remaining sources of mercury contamination, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed legislation that establishes a program to remove mercury switches from vehicles before melting them for scrap metal. Joining Codey for the bill signing, held at U.S. Pipe Company in Burlington City, one of the state's oldest iron and steel melters, were DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell and leading bill sponsors, (l-r) Senator Stephen M. Sweeney and Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli and Assemblyman Douglas Fisher.

## Surf reef project makes waves

**D**udes and dudettes across the Garden State may already be waxing their boards in anticipation of a reef construction project designed to produce waves that definitely will be worth a go-out.

The DEP and the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority are providing \$40,000 and technical assistance to the Surfrider Foundation and the Surfers Environmental Alliance for the design and construction of a new reef to restore and enhance surfing opportunities along the shore.

## DEP awards program honors environmental excellence

**T**he DEP is accepting nominations for the 2005 New Jersey Environmental Excellence Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state.

The deadline for applications is Sept. 16.

To learn more about the awards program or to submit an application, visit [www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards/).

## Zero tolerance for delays on cleanups along Delaware

**O**wners of major contaminated properties along the Delaware River had better pick up the pace on cleaning up the sites or face serious consequences.

Under a new initiative announced by Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, 10 contaminated sites threatening to pollute the Delaware River can expect heavy penalties, big fines and major enforcement action, if property owners renege on their cleanup agreements with the DEP.

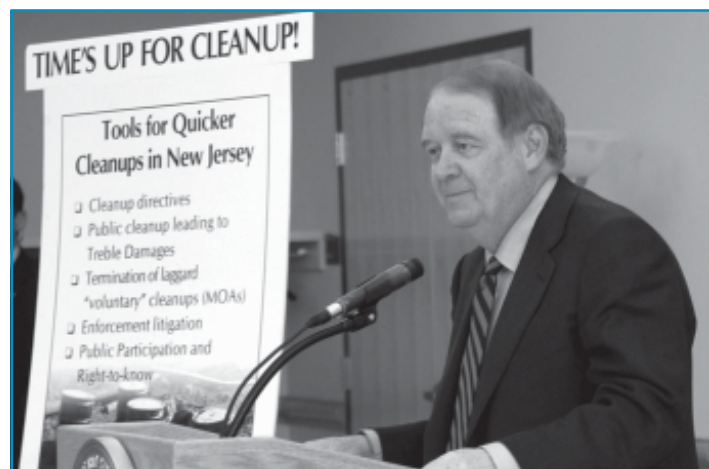
The initiative takes an innovative, regional approach to contaminated-site cleanup, targeting key sites to affect the greatest immediate impact on improving the quality of the Delaware River. The sites border the river in Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties.

"Our plan for the Delaware River will focus on zero tolerance for delays," Codey said. "We are saying 'Time's up' for cleanups that are behind schedule."

"Enough is enough on slow cleanups of contamination that is threatening the Delaware River," DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell said. "The Delaware not only provides drinking water to thousands of New Jerseyans, it also offers outdoor enthusiasts countless recreational opportunities."

The Delaware River initiative is similar to a regional cleanup effort targeting contaminated sites along the Raritan River. Launched last September, the Raritan River initiative has had significant success.

For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2005/10\\_delaware\\_sites.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2005/10_delaware_sites.pdf).



Acting Governor Richard J. Codey announces regional approach to contaminated-site cleanup.

# Cleaner marinas boost boating business

**M**arina owners and other boating enthusiasts are embarking on an innovative effort to prevent pollution, protect water quality and preserve natural resources along New Jersey's coastline.

Under New Jersey's Clean Marina Program, owners and operators of marinas, yacht clubs and other boating facilities are voluntarily taking action to prevent and reduce pollution from a variety of operations and activities including vessel maintenance, fueling, fish cleaning and waste handling.

A key part of Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's Coast 2005 initiative, the Clean Marina Program is sponsored by the DEP with a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To participate, boating facility owners and operators voluntarily sign a pledge to implement best management practices that protect the quality of New Jersey's coastal waterways, air and other natural resources from oil, grease, paint, cleaning chemicals, fish waste and other boating-related pollution.

Working with the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, the DEP offers marinas technical guidance including free

individual assistance and educational workshops on topics from coastal hazards to public access issues.

Participating marinas receive state certification as a Clean Marina facility and authorized use of the official Clean Marina logo for marketing and advertising materials. Every Certified Clean Marina receives a burgee to fly at the facility to signify its environmental commitment. The Clean Marina program also spotlights certified marinas in newsletters and on its official Web site: [njcleanmarina.org](http://njcleanmarina.org).

The program also can help boating businesses generate new sources of revenue, lower waste-disposal costs and attract customers that share their commitment to environmental protection and sound boating practices.

Cooperative partners in the program include: Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, Delaware National Estuary Program, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Manasquan Watershed Management Group, Marine Trades Association, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Rutgers University and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## Voyage to the bottom of the sea



*A 170-foot decommissioned Navy tanker sinks into the Atlantic Ocean about 6.5 miles offshore from Harvey Cedars, Ocean County, on the Garden State North reef site. Named Helix, the ship is the first of three vessels the DEP is deploying to enhance New Jersey's artificial reef sites to benefit fishermen, divers and the state's economy and provide new marine habitat. The reef enhancement is part of Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's Coast 2005 initiative.*



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## Beach closings up nationwide, but down in New Jersey

**P**ollution-related beach closings and health advisories hit an all-time high throughout the nation in 2004, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council's annual report on beach water quality, but New Jersey bucked the trend with an 11-percent drop in closings.

The NRDC's report, released in July, said the number of days of closings and advisories last year at ocean, bay and Great Lakes beaches totaled nearly 20,000, an increase of more than nine percent from 2003. It also was the largest number since the organization began keeping track 15 years ago.

In New Jersey, the number of beach closings fell to 168 in 2004 from 188 in 2003.

The NRDC said the reasons for the increase in closings and advisories include the continuing failure of most municipalities to identify and clean up pollution sources; more frequent monitoring; heavier than average rainfall in some states, which flushed more pollution into local waterways; and implementation of the federal Beaches Environmental Assessment, Closure and Health (BEACH)

Act of 2000, which became effective in early 2004. The law requires all states with coastal recreational beaches to adopt revised ocean water quality standards.

New Jersey was the first state to have a statewide mandatory beach protection program that includes a bacteria standard, a testing protocol and mandatory closure requirements. Since 1986, the DEP has worked to protect public health on New Jersey beaches by closely monitoring ocean water quality and performing surveillance flights to spot pollution sources along the coastline. Every summer, the water-quality monitoring is done routinely on Mondays and throughout the week as needed at 187 ocean monitoring stations, as part of the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program administered by the DEP, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and local environmental health agencies.

The public can get the latest, most accurate information on beach water quality by calling (800) 648-SAND or by visiting [NJBeaches.org](http://NJBeaches.org).

## It's shore to please

*You can help protect New Jersey's beaches and ocean water quality by purchasing the "Shore to Please" license plate, featuring historic Barnegat Lighthouse. Proceeds provide funding for several key environmental programs including Adopt A Beach, Clean Shores and coastal surveillance flights to spot pollution sources. Get the special plates by visiting any Motor Vehicle Agency or by calling (888) 486-3339.*

